

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 RABAT 02767 201337Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 201235Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1960
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 2767

USIA FOR IOR, INA, IPS, IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT MO US
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF NEW MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON
FRONT-PAGED IN LOCAL PRESS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILIES "LE MATIN" AND "MAROC SOIR",
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ARABIC DAILY, AL ANBA, AND MOROCCAN RADIO AND
TV GIVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE OF APPOINTMENT OF ALI BENGELLOUN AS NEW
MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON.

2. RECEIVING BENGELLOUN MAY 17, KING HASSAN II SAID (QUOTE) WE HAVE
ENTRUSTED YOU WITH THIS POST FIRST OF ALL BECAUSE YOU HAVE ALREADY
FILLED IT TO OUR COMPLETE SATISFACTION, AND SECONDLY BECAUSE THE TERM
YOU HAVE FILLED IN NEW YORK AT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS GIVEN YOU THE
OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW THOROUGHLY THE PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD AND
THE QUESTIONS OF THE HOUR. UNQUOTE. FRENCH VERSION OF KING'S AN-
NOUNCEMENT CONTINUES: (QUOTE)

YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE REPRESENTING US IN A GREAT NATION, A LONG-
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TIME FRIEND, WHICH MOROCCO WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RECOGNIZE.
TODAY, THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME THE FOREMOST WORLD
POWER, AND SHE HAS NEVER, AND NEVER WILL, FORGET HER
FRIENDS.

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO WORK AND TO
CARRY OUT YOUR DUTY TO PERFECTION. WE TAKE THIS OCCASION

TO PAY TRIBUTE TO YOUR PREDECESSOR, MR. ABDELHADI BOUTALEB, WHO CARRIED OUT HIS MISSION IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER AND WHOSE EFFORTS IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY ARE WORTHY OF PRAISE.

WE ARE CONVINCED, THAT, WITH THE HELP OF GOD, YOUR MISSION WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. UNQUOTE.

3. OPPOSITION ISTIQLAL DAILY AL ALAM CARRIED EXTRACTS FROM KING'S ANNOUNCEMENT, INCLUDING STATEMENT THAT MOROCCO WAS FIRST TO RECOGNIZE U.S.

4. COMMENT: PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT OF THE BENEGELLOUN APPOINTMENT AND THE KING'S FAVORABLE REFERENCES TO THE U.S. LIFT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WELL ABOVE THE ROUTINE AND REFLECT THE WARMTH OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN THIS "BICENTENNIAL YEAR" OF MOROCCAN/AMERICAN RELATIONS WE ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT KING CHOSE TO RECALL THAT MOROCCO WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RECOGNIZE THE UNITED STATES, IN ESSENCE REPEATING PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S EXACT SAME STATEMENT MADE PUBLICLY ON HASSAN'S ARRIVAL AT UNION STATION ON MARCH 27, 1963.ANDERSON

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